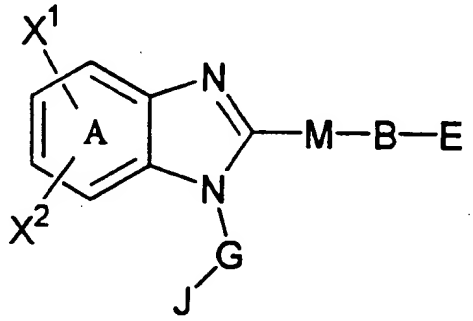
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. **(Currently Amended):** A method of inhibiting human chymase activity, comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of ~~An inhibitor against human chymase activity containing~~ a benzimidazole derivative expressed by the following formula (1) or its pharmaceutically permissible salt ~~as an active ingredient~~,



(1)

[in the formula (1), the ring marked with A expresses ~~a pyridine ring or~~ a benzene ring;

X^1 and X^2 are each at the same time or independently a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a trihalomethyl group, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, $-CH_2NH_2$, $-CH=NR^1$, $-CH=NOR^1$ or $-CONR^1R^2$ (here, R^1 and R^2 are each a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group), $-COOR^3$ (here, R^3 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group), a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-6} normal, cyclic or branched alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted C_{3-7} cycloalkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-6} normal or branched alkoxyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted

C_{1-6} normal or branched alkylthio group, a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-6} normal or branched alkylsulfonyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-6} normal or branched alkylsulfinyl group {the substituent permissible to the groups is a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, an acyl group, a trihalomethyl group, a trihalomethoxy group, a phenyl group, an oxo group or a phenoxy group optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms, and the substituent may substitute singly or plurally independently at arbitrary position(s)};

B is a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-6} normal, cyclic or branched alkylene group or a substituted or unsubstituted C_{2-6} normal or branched alkenylene group {the substituent permissible to the groups is a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, a C_{1-6} normal or branched alkoxyl group (including the case where adjacent two groups form an acetal bonding), a C_{1-6} normal or branched alkylthio group, a C_{1-6} normal or branched alkylsulfonyl group, a C_{1-6} normal or branched acyl group, a C_{1-6} normal or branched acylamino group, a trihalomethyl group, a trihalomethoxy group, a phenyl group, an oxo group or a phenoxy group optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms, and the substituent may substitute singly or plurally independently at arbitrary position(s) of the alkylene group or an alkenylene group; between atoms, the alkylene group or alkenylene group optionally contains one or more of -O-, -S-, $-SO_2-$ or $-NR^4-$, but this atom or atomic group does not bond directly to the M, and here R^4 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} normal or branched alkyl group};

A2 cont.

E expresses $-COOR^4$, ~~$-SO_3R^4$, $-CONHR^5$, $-SO_2NHR^4$, $-PO(OR^6)_2$, a tetrazol-5-yl group, a 5-oxo-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl group or~~

~~a 5-oxo-1,2,4-thiadiazol-3-yl group (here, R^4 is similarly defined as above; R^5 is a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, or a C_{1-6} normal or branched alkyl group; R^6 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} normal or branched alkyl group, or trifluoromethylsulfonyl group, or its pharmaceutically permissible salt)~~;

G is a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-6} normal or branched alkylene group {between atoms, the alkylene group optionally contains one or more of -O-, -S-, $-SO_2-$ or $-NR^4-$, but this atom or atomic group does not bond directly to the nitrogen atom of the imidazole ring (R^4 is similarly defined as above), and the substituent is a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, a C_{1-6} normal or branched alkoxyl group (including the case where adjacent two groups form an acetal bonding), a trihalomethyl group, a trihalomethoxy group, a phenyl group or an oxo group};

A2
Cont.

J is ~~a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-6} normal, cyclic or branched alkyl group,~~ a substituted or unsubstituted C_{4-10} aryl group {the substituent permissible to the groups is a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, $-COOR^7$ (here, R^7 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group), a C_{1-6} normal, cyclic or branched alkyl group, a C_{1-6} normal or branched alkoxyl group (including the case where adjacent two groups form an acetal bonding), a C_{1-6} normal or branched alkylthio group, a C_{1-6} normal or branched alkylsulfonyl group, a C_{1-6} normal or branched alkylsulfinyl group, a C_{1-6} acyl group, a C_{1-6} normal or branched acylamino group, a trihalomethyl group, a trihalomethoxy group, a phenyl group, an oxo group, or a phenoxy group optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms; the substituent may substitute singly or plurally independently at arbitrary position(s) of the ~~alkyl group or~~ aryl

group; and the substituent is further optionally substituted with a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, an acyl group, a trihalomethyl group, a phenyl group, an oxo group or a phenoxy group optionally substituted with a halogen atom}; and

M is a sulfur atom, a sulfinyl group, or a sulfonyl group~~, a single bond or CR^8R^9 (here, R^8 and R^9 are each at the same time or independently a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group)~~].

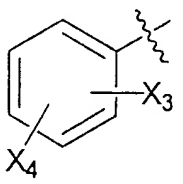
2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

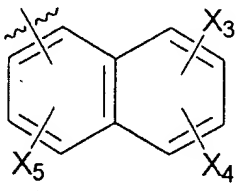
A2 cont.

4. (Currently Amended): The method ~~An inhibitor against human chymase activity~~ set forth in ~~one out of~~ Claims 1 ~~to 3~~ wherein X^1 and X^2 in the above formula (1) are each at the same time or independently a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a trihalomethyl group, a cyano group, a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-3} normal or branched alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-3} normal or branched alkoxyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-3} normal or branched alkylthio group.

5. (Currently Amended): The method ~~An inhibitor against human chymase activity~~ set forth in ~~one out of~~ Claims 1 ~~to 4~~ wherein J in ~~the above~~ formula (1) is a group described in the following formula (2) or (3),



(2)



(3)

[here, X^3, X^4 and X^5 are each at the same time or independently a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, a trihalomethyl group, a trihalomethoxy group, $-COOR^7$ (here, R^7 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group), a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-3} normal or branched alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-3} normal or branched alkoxyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-3} normal or branched alkylthio group, a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-3} normal or branched alkylsulfonyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-3} normal or branched alkylsulfinyl group; there is no limitation regarding the substitution positions of X^3, X^4 and X^5 on the benzene ring or the naphthalene ring].

A9 COOH

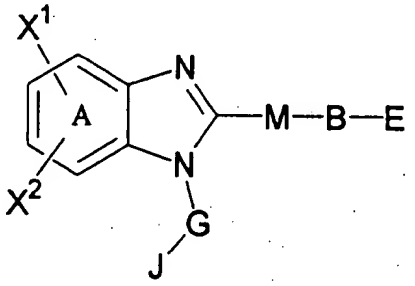
6. (Currently Amended): The method~~An inhibitor against human chymase activity~~ set forth in~~one out of~~ Claims 1 ~~to 5~~ wherein M~~in the above mentioned formula (1)~~ is a sulfur atom.

7. (Currently Amended): The method ~~An inhibitor against human chymase activity~~ set forth in~~one out of~~ Claims 1 ~~to 6~~ wherein B ~~in the above mentioned formula (1)~~ is a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-6} normal, cyclic or branched alkylene group.

8. (Currently Amended): The method~~An inhibitor against human chymase activity~~ set forth in~~one out of~~ Claims 1 ~~to 7~~ wherein G ~~in the above mentioned formula (1)~~ is $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CO-$, $-CH_2CH_2O-$, $-CH_2CONH-$, $-CO-$, $-SO_2-$, $-CH_2SO_2-$, $-CH_2S-$ or $-CH_2CH_2S-$ (J bonds to the right side of said group).

9. (Currently Amended): The method~~An inhibitor against human chymase activity~~ set forth in~~one out of~~ Claims 1 ~~to 8~~wherein E~~in the above mentioned formula (1)~~ is -COOH.

10. (Currently Amended): A benzimidazole derivative expressed by the following formula (4) or its pharmaceutically permissible salt,



(4)

~~[in the formula (4), the definitions of the ring marked with A, and X^1, X^2, B, E, G, J and M are same as those in the above formula (1); however, excepting the case where~~

[in the formula (4), the ring marked with A expresses a benzene ring;

X^1 and X^2 are each at the same time or independently a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a trihalomethyl group, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, $-CH_2NH_2$, $-CH=NR^1$, $-CH=NOR^1$ or $-CONR^1R^2$ (here, R^1 and R^2 are each a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group), $-COOR^3$ (here, R^3 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group), a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-6} normal, cyclic or branched alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted C_{3-7} cycloalkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-6} normal or branched alkoxyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-6} normal or branched alkylthio group, a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-6} normal or branched alkylsulfonyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-6} normal or branched alkylsulfinyl group {the substituent permissible to the groups is a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, an acyl group, a trihalomethyl group, a trihalomethoxy group, a phenyl group, an

oxo group or a phenoxy group optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms, and the substituent may substitute singly or plurally independently at arbitrary position(s)};

B is a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-6} normal, cyclic or branched alkylene group or a substituted or unsubstituted C_{2-6} normal or branched alkenylene group {the substituent permissible to the groups is a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, a C_{1-6} normal or branched alkoxyl group (including the case where adjacent two groups form an acetal bonding), a C_{1-6} normal or branched alkylthio group, a C_{1-6} normal or branched alkylsulfonyl group, a C_{1-6} normal or branched acyl group, a C_{1-6} normal or branched acylamino group, a trihalomethyl group, a trihalomethoxy group, a phenyl group, an oxo group or a phenoxy group optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms, and the substituent may substitute singly or plurally independently at arbitrary position(s) of the alkylene group or an alkenylene group; between atoms, the alkylene group or alkenylene group optionally contains one or more of -O-, -S-, $-SO_2-$ or $-NR^4-$, but this atom or atomic group does not bond directly to the M, and here R^4 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} normal or branched alkyl group};

A2 cont.

E expresses $-COOR^4$;

G is a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-6} normal or branched alkylene group {between atoms, the alkylene group optionally contains one or more of -O-, -S-, $-SO_2-$ or $-NR^4-$, but this atom or atomic group does not bond directly to the nitrogen atom of the imidazole ring (R^4 is similarly defined as above), and the substituent is a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, a C_{1-6} normal or branched alkoxyl group (including the case where

adjacent two groups form an acetal bonding), a trihalomethyl group, a trihalomethoxy group, a phenyl group or an oxo group};

J is a substituted or unsubstituted C_{4-10} aryl group {the substituent permissible to the groups is a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, -$COOR^7$ (here, R^7 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group), a C_{1-6} normal, cyclic or branched alkyl group, a C_{1-6} normal or branched alkoxyl group (including the case where adjacent two groups form an acetal bonding), a C_{1-6} normal or branched alkylthio group, a C_{1-6} normal or branched alkylsulfonyl group, a C_{1-6} normal or branched alkylsulfinyl group, a C_{1-6} acyl group, a C_{1-6} normal or branched acylamino group, a trihalomethyl group, a trihalomethoxy group, a phenyl group, an oxo group, or a phenoxy group optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms; the substituent may substitute singly or plurally independently at arbitrary position(s) of the aryl group; and the substituent is further optionally substituted with a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, an acyl group, a trihalomethyl group, a phenyl group, an oxo group or a phenoxy group optionally substituted with a halogen atom); and

M is a sulfur atom, a sulfinyl group, or sulfonyl group provided that when at least one of X^1 and X^2 is a cyano group, -CH_2NH_2, -$CH{=}NR^1$, -$CH{=}NOR^1$ or -$CONR^1R^2$ (here, R^1 and R^2 are each a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group), J expresses only a substituted naphthalene ring].

11. (Currently Amended): A benzimidazole derivative or its pharmaceutically permissible salt set forth in Claim 10 wherein X^1 and X^2 ~~in the above formula (4)~~ are each a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, -CH_2NH_2, -$CH{=}NR^1$, -$CH{=}NOR^1$ or -$CONR^1R^2$ (here, R^1 and R^2 are each a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group; X^1 and X^2 are not hydrogen at the same time).

12. (Currently Amended): A benzimidazole derivative or its pharmaceutically permissible salt set forth in Claim 10 wherein X^1 and X^2 ~~in the above formula (4)~~ are each at the same time or independently a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a trihalomethyl group, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, ~~-CH=NR^4 (here, R^4 is a hydrogen atom or a C$_{1-4}$ alkyl group),~~ -COOR^3 (here, R^3 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group), a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-6} normal, cyclic or branched alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-6} normal or branched alkoxyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-6} normal or branched alkylthio group, a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-6} normal or branched alkylsulfonyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-6} normal or branched alkylsulfinyl group {the substituent permissible to the groups is a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, an acyl group, a trihalomethyl group, a trihalomethoxy group, a phenyl group, an oxo group or a phenoxy group optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms, and the substituent may substitute singly or plurally independently at arbitrary position(s)}.

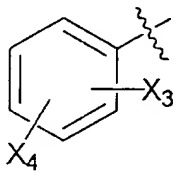
13. (Currently Amended): A benzimidazole derivative or its pharmaceutically permissible salt set forth in Claim 10 wherein X^1 and X^2 ~~in the above formula (4)~~ are each a hydrogen atom or a cyano group (here, X^1 and X^2 can not be hydrogen atoms at the same time).

14. (Currently Amended): A benzimidazole derivative or its pharmaceutically permissible salt set forth in ~~one out of~~ Claims ~~10 to 13~~ wherein M ~~in the above formula (4)~~ is a sulfur atom.

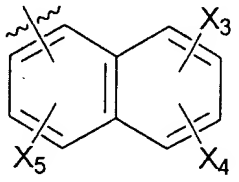
15. (Currently Amended): A benzimidazole derivative or its pharmaceutically permissible salt set forth in ~~one out of~~ Claims ~~10 to 14~~ wherein B ~~in the above formula (4)~~ is a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-6} normal, cyclic or branched alkylene group.

16. (Currently Amended): A benzimidazole derivative or its pharmaceutically permissible salt set forth in ~~one out of~~ Claims ~~10 to 15~~ wherein J ~~in the above formula (4)~~ is a group expressed by the following formula (2) or (3),

A2 cont.



(2)



(3)

[here, X^3, X^4 and X^5 are each at the same time or independently a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, a trihalomethyl group, a trihalomethoxy group, -$COOR^7$ (here, R^7 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group), a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-3} normal or branched alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-3} normal or branched alkoxyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-3} normal or branched alkylthio group, a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-3} normal or branched alkylsulfonyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-3} normal or branched alkylsulfinyl group; there is no limitation regarding the substitution positions of X^3, X^4 and X^5 on the benzene ring or the naphthalene ring].

17. (Currently Amended): A benzimidazole derivative or its pharmaceutically permissible salt set forth in ~~one out of~~ Claims ~~10 to 16~~ wherein G ~~in the above formula (4)~~ is

-CH_2-, -CH_2CH_2-, -CH_2CO-, -CH_2CH_2O-, -CH_2CONH-, -CO-, -SO_2-, -CH_2SO_2-, -CH_2S- or -CH_2CH_2S- (J bonds to the right side of said group).

18. (Currently Amended): A benzimidazole derivative or its pharmaceutically permissible salt set forth in ~~one out of~~ Claims ~~10 to 17~~ wherein E ~~in the above formula (4)~~ is -COOH.

19. (Currently Amended): A pharmaceutical composition consisting of a benzimidazole derivative and/or its pharmaceutically permissible salt set forth in any one ~~out~~ of Claims 10-18, and a pharmaceutically permissible carrier.

A2 cont.

20. (Currently Amended): The method ~~A chymase activity inhibitor~~ set forth in any one ~~out of~~ Claims 1 and 4 to 9 wherein the targeted ~~whose targeting~~ disease is an inflammatory disease, an allergy disease, a respiratory disease, a cardiovascular disease or a bone/cartridge metabolic disease.

21. (Currently Amended): The method ~~A human chymase activity inhibitor~~ set forth in Claim 20 wherein the method prevents or treats ~~which is a preventing agent or a treating agent of~~ a disease in human beings.